CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A method of generating an HIV-specific cytotoxic T-cell (CTL) response in a host, which comprises:

administering to the host a T-helper molecule to prime T-helper cells of the immune system of the host, and

subsequently administering to the host a mixture of said T-helper molecule and a T-cell inducing HIV-derived molecule to generate an HIV-specific T-cell response in the host.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said T-helper molecule is selected from HLA class II restricted T-helper epitopes.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said T-helper epitopes are selected from the group consisting of DP, DR and DQ-specific T-cell epitopes.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said T-helper molecule is CLP-243 (SEQ ID NO:10).

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said T-helper molecule is administered with an adjuvant.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said T-cell inducing HIV-derived molecule includes a peptide corresponding to a portion of an HIV-1 antigen and containing at least one T-cell epitope.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said peptide correspond to sequences of the Rev protein of HIV-1.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein said peptide is a lipopeptide.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the lipid is palmitoyl or cholesterol.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein said lipopeptide is CLP-175 or CLP-176.

11. The method of claim 6 wherein said mixture is administered with an adjuvant.

12. A peptide having an amino acid corresponding to amino acids 52 to 116 (SEQ ID No:9) of the sequence of the Rev protein of HIV-1 LAI isolate and containing T-cell epitopes within amino acids 63 to 73 (SEQ ID NO:3), 74 to 83 (SEQ ID NO:5) and 102 to 110 (SEQ ID NO:8), or having a corresponding amino acid sequence from another HIV-I isolate.

13. The peptide of claim 12 in the form of a lipopeptide.

14. The peptide of claim 13 wherein the lipid is palmitoyl or cholesterol.

15. The peptide of claim 13 wherein the lipopeptide is CLP-175 or CLP-176.